I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call: All members were present by other means (telephone Accutel event)

III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2020: Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2020. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.
V. Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Lance Gough reported:

Mr. Gough was on a conference call on Saturday, April 25th with Rainbow PUSH with their National Elected Officials Call-In. A number of legislators spoke about pending legislation affecting the upcoming election. We will be watching any new legislation coming up.

Mr. Gough also had a meeting with FEMA to talk about PPE needs for the November election; they’ll be helping us on that.

Mr. Gough indicated what we have in the City budget consideration for Vote by Mail, but called upon Finance Director Peter Peso regarding the County budget. Mr. Peso stated that he would get in touch with the County’s budget analyst by the end of the day to see what we have in all of our accounts for Vote by Mail.

Mr. Gough stated that the Board’s Managers are going to meet (via conference call) today at 11:30 to discuss the staff returning to the office. We need to get ready for the November election while to following social distancing and other Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

Mr. Gough notified the Board that he would like to begin Early Voting 20 days in advance of election day rather than the 15 days prior, and requested the Board’s permission to do so. Mr. Gough thinks that this will result in a better turnout. The Chair agreed with starting Early Voting earlier.

Commissioner Kresse agreed with starting Early Voting earlier, but stated that we have to maximize the amount of time for Vote-by-Mail. Mr. Gough agreed. The starting date for Vote by Mail applications is August 5th. The sooner we get information of who wants to use Vote by Mail, the better.

Mr. Gough expects to have more information after today’s managers’ meeting. The staff is working from home. We need to start bringing the safely back to the office and warehouse. Mr. Gough noted that updating Voter History needs to be completed, and that this is work to be performed at the warehouse.

We are working with the vendors. The Assistant Executive Director is meeting regularly with Dominion. There are some matters that need to be addressed, but everything seems to be going well.

Our bills are being paid on time.

All of our Judges of Election have received their checks.

We will be meeting with Board managers and supervisors to see what types of phone conversations they’re having with the public, to assess their comments and concerns.

The Chair asked Mr. Gough about Vote by Mail. Colloquy ensued on Vote by Mail involving the Chair, Mr. Gough, General Counsel Adam Lasker and Commissioner Kresse.
The Chair asked Mr. Gough about social distancing for our staff. Mr. Gough explained that the details of this will be discussed at the managers meeting. But he thinks that we are handling it.

The Chair asked to hear from Finance Director Peter Peso on funding for part-time workers for the November election and what we have to do to get that going. Mr. Peso stated that someone from our Human Resources Department would have to let the City Comptroller know what our needs are. Mr. Gough stated that part-time workers and staffing will be part of the discussion at today’s managers’ meeting. The Chair expressed the importance of taking care of this matter and said she would appreciate a status report on that at our next Regular Board meeting. Human Resources Manager LaCretia Dandridge stated that it was her understanding that we would have a funding item in the budget. Colloquy ensued which also included Mr. Lasker.

A. Assistant Executive Director

Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

We are going to have a managers’ meeting, via teleconference, today to discuss matters going forward.

Mr. Holiday will be meeting with Dominion regarding items we would like to see for the November election.

We are also having conversations with ES&S. regarding the e-poll book. It appears that during the Primary our Judges of Election did a great job checking in voters on the e-poll books.

VI. Communications Director – No report at this time.

VII. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: The infrastructure appears fine at this time.

B. Electronic Poll Books: The e-poll books are fine, but as previously noted we need to extract the voter history files off of them.

C. Voting Equipment: Voting equipment status is unchanged.

D. Legislation:

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

As you know, we have been working on an outline of legislative proposals to raise to the state board, the Governor’s office, and the legislature regarding the challenges we anticipate for the November election. We have also been discussing these matters with the County Clerk’s office and with some of our neighboring counties. To clarify, these are not necessarily items that we’re going to introduce, but, rather, some guidance from our perspective.

The real highlights are that we have identified three options for the November election: Option One is the status quo;
Option Two would be a combination of a vote by mail with Universal Vote Centers on election day; Option Three would be to conduct an entirely Vote-by-Mail election.

Of course, regardless of how the legislature instructs us to move forward, we’ll get the job done. Again, we are making our concerns known to the legislature and Governor as a way to work with and advise them as to what we see as necessary for a safe and free and equal election this November.

Colloquy among the Commissioners, Mr. Lasker and Mr. Gough ensued.

Additionally, there is a federal court lawsuit brought by the Illinois Libertarian Party and some Independents who are in the middle of their petition circulation period. They are claiming that due to the pandemic their signature requirement is too high. A court order will require that they need to file only 10% of the original requirement and extended the filing period by 6 weeks. That could prove problematic for the Electoral Board and for ballot preparation. The Illinois State Board of Elections indicated that they plan to appeal the order. Discussion ensued.

The City had previously discussed the possibility of a police board ordinance that would have had some members elected in November. This matter has not moved forward and, due to the pandemic, probably will not be part of the November election.

VIII. New Business

A. Extension of agreement with MEETING TOMORROW, INC. due to COVID-19 — The Chair requested that the Board not entertain this matter at this time. Neither Commissioner Kresse or Commissioner Swain had an objection to removing item A from the agenda.

B. Amendment to the Board’s employee handbook for adoption of policies in compliance with the Family First Coronavirus Response Act.

LaCretia Dandridge reported that the Department of Labor passed this, and that it is an extension of the Board’s Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy. This amendment would add the COVID-19 reasons. Mr. Lasker thanked Ms. Dandridge and Deputy Counsel Joan Agnew who tailored this policy to work with the Board’s Rules.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the amendment to the employee handbook to include the FMLA corona virus provisions. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
IX. Legal Report:  
General Counsel Lasker reported:

Over the past week, Deborah Moss, our ADA consultant, had more conversations with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Equip for Equality and the Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The DOJ decided, due to corona virus concerns, not to inspect polling places on election day. The DOJ understands that there is uncertainty as to which, and how many, polling places will be used in November and is sympathetic and is willing to work with the team. Commissioner Kresse expressed gratitude to the DOJ for being willing to work with the Board during these difficult times. Mr. Lasker pointed out that the DOJ is using Chicago as a model with respect to national compliance.

X. Financial Report: none

XI. Public Comment  
Rose Joshua, NAACP

Ms. Joshua reported on complaints that the NAACP had received with regards to the March primary, specifically with regards to Vote by Mail.

XII. Executive Session: None

XIII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next regular meeting or at the call of the Chair. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board. The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Submitted,

[Signature]

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary